

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

July 16th, 2014

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on July 16th, 2014 at Broughton Parish Rooms, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

82/14). Present were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor E. Amos
	Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor P. Mullee
	Councillor J. Allen	Councillor G. Garner
	Councillor M. Dodkins	Councillor L. Serjeant
	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	2 member of the public
	Borough / County Councillor F. Chapman	1 member of the press
	Borough Councillor J. Pert	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor L. Taylor-Potts, Jones and Starkey.

83/14). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- No requests had been submitted

84/14). Public Participation:- The members of the public present did not wish to raise any issues.

85/14). To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on June 18th, 2014:- The minutes, which had been circulated previously, were agreed and signed.

86/14) Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

Councillor Chapman reported that he and Councillor Pert had attended a meeting with Mr Holmes to seek clarification regarding the anticipated number of homes that would be required in the Key Service villages and whether endorsing one application could lead to the subsequent approval of others. Mr Holmes had indicated that there were no numbers for the allocation of houses over the KSV but once the total of 1200 allowed for in the Plan for Stafford Borough across the KSV had been met there would be more justification to refuse further development. There were applications currently in the system for approximately 900 new dwellings and the remaining 300 would be approved on a first come first served basis. However, to refuse an application it would have to be shown that it would cause demonstrable harm.

Councillor Pimble commented that he and Mrs Heelis had met with Raj Bains and Melissa Kurihara (Senior Planning Officer) regarding the apportionment of houses and the Officers had indicated that they expected the KSV to suggest an amount they felt was sensible and sustainable for the village. Raj and Melissa were attending meetings of Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan Group to discuss this matter and the identification of Settlement Boundaries.

Councillor Chapman referred to the litter and cleanliness of the town and had contacted the group 'Geo Chaser' who were willing to undertake voluntary work in the town. It was agreed to note the contact details for future reference however, it was considered that that the town was tidy at present. It was suggested that a letter was delivered to property owners / occupiers in the town centre to encourage them to keep their frontages free of litter and weeds. Councillor Chapman proposed that Mr Hulse (Business Group Chairman) Councillor Jones and the Clerk met to discuss the format of the leaflet and Councillor Chapman indicated that he may be able to finance the delivery from the Local Community Fund.

Councillor Chapman referred to a consultation regarding the future of the Library Service and encouraged people to submit their views. Mrs Heelis had circulated details to Councillors and there would be a drop in session at Eccleshall Library on August 12th, 2014 from 3pm to 6pm.

87/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- In the absence of Councillor Taylor Potts, Councillor Serjeant presented the minutes of the meeting held on July 2nd, 2014.

Councillor Serjeant reported that Councillor Taylor Potts had been returned as Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year, and Councillor Serjeant as Vice-Chairman. The following matters were noted:-

- The resurfacing of the Footpath on Newport Road was to be included in the 5 year plan and it was proposed to raise this matter with Mr Mitchell.
- A bus bay had been marked out on the carriageway on Stone Road by The George.

- Mrs Heelis was liaising with Mr Hulse from the Business Group regarding the identification of traders who could benefit from the use of 4 Parking spaces allocated at the Police Station.
- Councillor Jones was no longer a member of the Business Group and Mrs Heelis was asked to write to Mr Hulse seeking a replacement representative on the Traffic Management Committee.
- Clarification was required regarding responsibility for the blue brick areas outside shops and premises in the High Street. Members queried whether The Smithy required planning permission to erect a fixed partition around the front of the premises with seating inside the cordoned off area, especially as this was within the Conservation Area. It was noted that benches outside The Bell had been moved onto the cobbled areas on occasions to take full advantage of the evening sun. It was agreed to monitor this situation with regard to possible obstruction of the paved and cobbled areas.
- Bus stop Stafford Road / Green Lane:- It was noted that the planning application submitted by Richborough Estates for a development off Stafford Road included the provision of a pavement, bus stop and hardstanding for passengers to alight when approaching Eccleshall.
- Councillor Taylor-Potts suggested that a bench was provided on Newport Road outside the Fire-Station.
- The next visit of the NHT was due on October 14th, 2014 members were requested to send any details of any matters requiring attention to the Clerk.
- Car Parking:- BT had indicated that it was not possible to make any parking spaces available on their land on Castle Street. Similarly the temporary landlord at the Kings Arms considered that it would be inappropriate for him to make such arrangements. A reply was still awaited from Transco. Councillors Pimble and Dale had met with the Carter Trustees and negotiations were continuing.
- Pot holes:- Councillors and local residents were able to report road defects to the highways hotline. Mr Mitchell had advised that the roundabouts and the condition of Stafford Street were subject to monthly inspections and that the County Council had submitted bids for additional finances to repair pot holes available from the government.
- Shaws Lane:- It was proposed to discuss the condition of Shaws Lane at the next meeting with Mr Mitchell, as vehicles overrunning the verge had exposed raised kerbs and drains, which were hazardous in the dark.
- Water – Horsefair:- It was noted that the leak at Horsefair had been repaired.

Drainage and flooding:- Following the Council meeting held on June 16th, 2014 Mrs Heelis had written to Severn Trent and Staffordshire Highways seeking further information about the capacity of the drains and sewage system in Eccleshall, and especially whether the figures quoted by Severn Trent were for foul water only and did not include surface and run off water. The Clerk had also enquired when a camera survey was last undertaken, as possibly some of the network was limited by silt, roots or displaced joints and also details of the procedure for reporting flood events.

- A response from Severn Trent indicated that the figures quoted previously were for foul flows only and records indicated that surface water may also be discharged at a rate of 5 litres per second, to be attenuated within the site to the foul sewer and this had been assessed as acceptable. CCTV surveys had been undertaken as and when required relating to localised issues and sewers repaired as necessary. Reported incidents of flooding were investigated and if found to be a result of a lack of hydraulic capacity in the receiving sewer, were recorded on the register for further investigation. Previous letters indicated a history of flooding by overland flows and these incidents were not recorded. Similarly if flooding occurred due to a blockage/ structural defect on a pipe this would be resolved and not recorded. The last flooding incident recorded was in 2002 and Severn Trent records related only to network failures and rectification work.
- Staffordshire Highways had replied indicating that CCTV work was within the remit of Severn Trent and included a list of contacts to report flooding issues. With regard to the proposed development at the rear of Eccleshall Community Centre it was noted that the County Council was not a statutory consultee but having liaised with the Environment Agency who submitted comments on the application a consultation was to be requested on this development.

Network Rail:- Letters had been delivered to households apologising for the inconvenience caused by continuing roadworks on the A5013, which were part of Network Rail's Stafford Area Improvements Programme. The junction widening had been subject to a number of problems and the work was now expected to be completed by July 26th, 2014. Members commented that no-one appeared to be working on the scheme and the project was significantly behind schedule. It was agreed to write to Network Rail if the works were not completed by July 28th, 2014.

The minutes of the traffic Management Committee were adopted by the Council.

Enhancements Committee:-

Fire Tender:- Despite a setback with funding from the Fire Service, negotiations were continuing. Mr Jesson from the Co-op had indicated that as the project would be implemented by the Company it was unlikely that it would be eligible for Leader Funding. Mrs Heelis was asked to explore other avenues of funding and Councillor Dodkins suggested that an approach could be made to The Heritage Lottery.

Seat / noticeboards:- It was noted that some of the seats in the Town had now been refurbished by an inmate of Drake Hall and the work was of a high standard. However, Mrs Heelis expressed concern that it may not be possible for the seats and notice boards in other parts of the Parish to be treated as there seemed to be difficulty with transport. The Clerk was authorised to ascertain which seats the Prison planned to refurbish and place an order with Mr Sheard to carry any remaining work at a cost of £25 per seat and £10 per notice board. Mrs Heelis was also authorised to purchase additional paint and varnish.

Ten new slats were required to refurbish two seats which were currently at Drake Hall. The Chairman and Clerk had contacted several suppliers but were having difficulty sourcing the correct materials and sizes. It was resolved to place an order with Broxap who manufactured the seats at a cost of £18.50 per slat excluding vat. Councillor Baskerville offered to collect the slats saving a delivery charge of £70.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting would be held on August 20th, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- There was nothing to report.

88/14). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from The Allotments Association, Tourism Bureau, Business Group or Offley Hay Village Hall.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville commented that the Festival had been a huge success and thanked the Festival Management Committee. The flags would remain in situ until the baskets were removed to commemorate the First World War Centenary.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins referred to the end of term on July 18th and reported that a Fair held on July 12th had been well attended. Councillor Pimble had represented the Parish Council at a service when the Bishop had blessed the new school, which had been a memorable occasion. Broken windows at the Old School Building were to be made secure by the County Council.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that the refurbishments to the Ladies toilets were completed. Public consultation sessions had been held at the Centre by J-Ross Developments who proposed to develop land off Cross Butts.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins indicated that concerns that closure of youth services in the County could lead to more young people wishing to join the Youth Club in Eccleshall had led to a decision to limit membership numbers.

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor Dodkins expressed concerns that future funding opportunities may favour small businesses rather than community schemes.

Festival:- Councillor Dale reported on a very successful Festival, which had been well attended and had benefitted from lovely weather.

89/14). Vacancy – Croxton Ward:- Mrs Heelis reported that the vacancy was advertised for the statutory period and no election had been requested. The Parish Council could now advertise for anyone interested in being co-opted to contact the Parish Clerk. Applications were to be received by September 5th, 2014 and co-option would take place at the Council meeting on September 17th, 2014.

90/14). Neighbourhood Plan:- Councillor Pimble reported that following a meeting of the steering group held on June 26th, 2014 Mrs Heelis and Councillor Pimble had met with Raj Bains and Melissa Kurihara from Stafford Borough to modify the policies and accompanying documents, which the group had drafted. Three group members had considered the 20 sites around Eccleshall and were preparing criteria and justifications for including or excluding the sites from the new Settlement Boundary. Meetings had been arranged with Highways and Housing Officers to refine the Policies included in the Plan.

91/14). Parish Council Newsletter September 2014 – Mrs Heelis asked members to forward details of any items for inclusion in the publication.

92/14). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:-

Mrs Heelis reported the receipt of applications for funding from Eccleshall Youth Club and Eccleshall RUFC. Both applications had been received earlier that day, neither being accompanied by a copy of the latest audited accounts. It was resolved to refer both applications to the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting on August 20th, 2014 for consideration. There was some discussion about whether

the YoYo application, which was towards the costs of summer activities could be decided at the Council Meeting but members agreed that although the excellent work being done at the Youth Club was recognised and members would wish to look favourably on any grant application, the submission should have been made several months ago.

93/14). Chairman's report:- Councillor Dale referred to a book which had been published on The History of Stafford, retailing at £24.99. After some discussion it was agreed not to purchase copy of this particular publication.

Councillor Dodkins referred to the glass works in Bishop Wood. English Heritage was seeking funding towards the refurbishment of the listed works and Councillor Dodkins was requested to seek further information and report back to the Parish Council.

94/14). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis reported that the Audit Return had been received from Grant Thornton and no matters were identified for referral to the Parish Council. The Internal Auditor had submitted a report and copies were available from Mrs Heelis upon request.

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2487.84
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	138.02
Salaries & associated costs - August - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2268.50
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10</i>	252.00
Mrs. J. Hill Internal Audit - <i>Accounts & Audit Regs. 2003</i>	40.00
Wicksteed repairs to Croxton Play Area - <i>Public Health Act 1875 s.164</i>	709.20

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to settle accounts prior to the next meeting in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

95/14). Items, date and venue for next meeting;- September 17th, 2014, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm